

REMARKS/ARGUMENT

Description of amendments

Applicants have written claims 2-6, 9 and 10 in independent form, amended claims 1, 7 and 8, and added two new claims (*i.e.*, claims 14-16). As amended, claims 1-16 are pending

Allowed and allowable claims

Applicants appreciate that the Examiner has allowed claims 11-13 and has indicated claims 2-6, 9 and 10 would be allowable if they are rewritten to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have rewritten claims 2-6, 9 and 10 in independent form. Please note: in incorporating the subject matter of claim 7 into claim 9, Applicants deleted the claim language "and said fluid inlet pipe interconnected at another end with said drain valve body."

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1, 7 and 8 were rejected as being unpatentable over *Carringer* (US Patent No. 6,820,630). For the following reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

The Examiner contended that *Carringer* discloses all limitations of claims 1, 7 and 8 except a transparent inlet pipe component. The Examiner further contended that a *Rome* reference discloses a transparent inlet pipe component and that it would have been obvious to make the pipe elbow of *Carringer* with a transparent material in view of the teaching of *Rome*.

The rejection is improper because the Examiner did not provide Applicants with a copy of the *Rome* reference or with sufficient information about the *Rome* reference so that Applicants can obtain a copy on their own. The Examiner only cited the *Rome* reference but provided no other information about it. The MPEP requires that the Examiner properly communicate the basis for a rejection so that Applicant can be given fair opportunity to reply (MPEP 706.02(j)). The MPEP further requires that where a claim is refused for any reason relating to the merits thereof the ground of rejection should be fully and clearly stated (MPEP 707.07(d)). The rejection does not meet the requirements of MPEP and therefore should be withdrawn.

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Amendment dated July 7, 2006
Reply to Office action of April 7, 2006

Although the above is sufficient to establish that the impropriety of the rejection, Applicants wish to add that it would not have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to use a transparent intake elbow in the dry sectional gate valve of *Carringer*. In Applicants' invention, the drainage flowing through the inlet pipe is not clean, and a transparent inlet pipe allows the user to observe the clarity of the drainage. In *Carringer*, the gate valve is used on a fire truck, and the water flowing through the intake elbow is always clean and transparent. Therefore, there is no need for a transparent intake elbow to allow the user to observe the water flowing through the intake elbow. Accordingly, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have used a transparent intake elbow in the dry sectional gate valve of *Carringer*.

Patentability of new claims 14-16

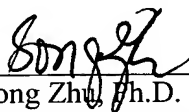
New claims 14-16 are patentable for at least the reason that they depend from patentable base claims.

In light of the foregoing remarks, this application is considered to be in condition for allowance. If necessary to ensure a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to provide a timely response. Please charge any fees to Deposit Account No. 07-1850.

Respectfully submitted,

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